

BBC Learning English
Words in the News
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China faces drop in recruitment



In China, a survey of multinational companies has found that nearly 70% of them plan to cut recruitment this year. The survey of more than 350 companies found that finance, communications and IT companies were hardest hit. Chris Hogg reports:

Jobs in multinational companies are **highly prized** in China, especially **white-collar jobs**. For a start the pay is often better than you might get as a **public servant** or the employee of a state owned enterprise. The jobs **tend to be concentrated** at the moment in the larger cities, like Beijing or Shanghai, or in the areas where there are many factories **making goods for export**.

Two years ago the multinationals were competing **to hire the brightest talent** from China's universities but since the financial crisis jobs in multinational firms whose parent companies have **run into trouble** overseas, like CitiGroup or Motorola, no longer look so secure.

This year there was **a record number** of applications for the civil service, more than three quarters of a million people applied for 13,500 places. The surveys of the multinationals reported in the state media suggest that those applicants were wise **to seek safer alternatives**.

Almost 7 out of 10 of the firms polled made clear they planned to recruit fewer staff in the year ahead. That will make life even harder for this year's graduates. There are fewer jobs available than before and they'll be competing with other unemployed graduates from previous years and with **newly laid off** workers who already have experience. The graduate employment market has always been tough in China but this year it is looking like it will be tougher than ever.

Chris Hogg, BBC News, Shanghai

Vocabulary and definitions

highly prized	much valued, sought after
white-collar jobs	jobs carried out in an office requiring mental rather than manual skills
public servant	someone working for the government
tend to be concentrated	are likely to be mostly in the same place
making goods for export	producing products specifically to be sold abroad
to hire the brightest talent	to recruit the best people to work for them
run into trouble	begun to have problems
a record number	more than ever before
to seek safer alternatives	to look for less risky jobs
newly laid off	recently made redundant

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